Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee

Meeting purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- filter information and prepare for the Council
- set framework and agenda for Council
- identify and make recommendations for the appropriate utilization of state resources
- consider action on the recommendations of the Council
- set priorities for development of the Early ACCESS system
- implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement
- transact all regular business of the Council between meetings

Date, time, and place

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Time: 2:00-4:30pm

Place: Jesse Parker Building, Starkweather Conference Room

Attendees

Present: LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Debra Waldron, Carrie Sodders, Gina

Greene, Kelly Hancock, Jeff Anderson via conf. call

Excused: Jane Borst, Mary Stevens

Staff: Julie Curry, Marion Kresse, Rae Miller, Kelly Schulte, Angi Walker,

and Jody Kealey via conference call

Approval of previous minutes

Kelly Hancock

Action: Motion by LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl and seconded by Debra Waldron to approve minutes from August 12, 2009. The motion passed.

Lead Agency Updates

LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl

ARRA funding update- due to funds having not been obligated for Iowa will receive 600,000 to 700,000 additional dollars, will decide at next MOA meeting on how to spend/obligate these funds, Early ACCESS has until September 2011 to obligate these funds.

Lead agency reviewed how ARRA funds are being obligated – a majority is going to maintain service coordinators and service providers. As people retire, hopefully there will not be a funding cliff in 2011.

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Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

Quarterly Informal Concerns Report

Julie Curry

Two concerns have been received since June 2009

An ICEA member asked if a Des Moines School District change in staffing policy could adversely affect Early ACCESS services. State staff contacted a school administrator who reported that they were able to extend contracts and contract with private providers to get all services covered last June. This was a temporary fix; they have formed a work group to recommend a long-term solution for this issue. State staff will follow up with the school district in January of 2010 to assure that year-round services are covered.

Early ACCESS Iowa had concern that Spanish speaking clients were not getting called back for follow-up hearing checks and were not getting an interpreter to help translate. State staff contacted AEA supervisor who reported that the local office has designated person to call for whenever a Spanish interpreter is needed. The supervisor acknowledged that they had some breakdown in communication due to a staff vacancy. Now they have a specific person within the office that will assign an interpreter. Early ACCESS Iowa followed up, screenings were done, now they know who to contact so that families will get a Spanish interpreter.

Nutrition Services

Jody Kealey – in meeting via conference call

Jody Kealey is a Registered Dietician with Child Health Specialty Clinics. She asked for the committee's guidance in identifying nutrition services after children turn three. Over 130 kids being served on IFSPs for nutrition services over the last year. As kids age out, nutrition support services difficult to find within their community. Weight and growth issues are not fixed. Looking around the state, not many other groups are helping with this. Legislation passed a few years ago that asks AEAs to hire dietician to provide services to children within school district with needs. Some people have said this is because CHSC is already providing the service, but this is only for the 1-3 age. Beyond the age of 3 there are limited services for these children. When Jody receives a referral, she will get in touch with the school to offer services – many cases are too complex for the child's needs to be met by video conferencing or giving them limited consultation services. A meeting will be set up to discuss this with state staff from IDEA Part B.

Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Continued

Priority Work: Service Coordination Discussion Debrief Kelly Hancock

Themes gained from talking to various agencies included; time constraints, rating system, complexity of care; collaboration and networking; cultural competence; family centeredness; resources and referrals; paperwork; and increased caseloads. What could we do now to enhance service coordination?

- Survey families directly about cultural competency?
- Review budgets and caseloads?
- Develop a rating system to make caseloads equitable?
- Web IFSP would be helpful to alleviate time crunch?
- Utilize ARRA funding to research effects of caseload size?
- Conduct a study to determine the percent of children in Iowa who need early intervention services?
- Look at what are we doing already in the state? Bring this back to council members to show them what we are doing?
- Expand family resource information through Early ACCESS Iowa or collaborate with the Family to Family Health Information grant?

Plan for next Executive meeting 12-02-09 and review agenda for ICEA meeting 11-20-09 ICEA Meeting, November 20, 2009

State Staff will arrange a breakfast for new members who were not able to meet with Signatory Agency representatives.

Family Story: Nicki Varble is the mother of a child with autism.

Setting targets for APR/C-3 Early Childhood Outcomes and ICEA input

regarding APR Indicator data for FFY 2008(2008-2009).

Legislative Updates: Senator Beall and Sheila Hansen.

Priority Work: postpone the service coordinator update until January meeting. Discuss what the 10% across the board cut will mean for Early ACCESS.

Executive Meeting December 2nd

Priority Work

Review ARRA funding proposals

Medicaid Update

Kelly Schulte will check with Jane Borst about the Homeless Population –

have had environmental scan, where do we go next?

Sharing and adjourn

Kelly Hancock

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM